

SINPA Phase 1 Reflection Workshop

Introduction

In the design phase, SINPA partners agreed to the following M&E **principles**:

- Processes should be **participatory and accountable** – in particular ensuring accountability to the Solomon Islanders with whom the NGO is working.
- Processes should encourage continuous **learning, reflection and change**.
- Processes should be **empowering** for those involved.
- Processes should be **gender sensitive**.
- Information from monitoring should be **triangulated and trustworthy**.
- Processes should be **simple and doable**.

There are two **stages** to the monitoring and evaluation of SINPA:

- Each NGO's own M&E framework for monitoring progress within each project: *Throughout February and March 2010, each NGO is conducting their own process for reflecting on how their project went in Phase 1.*
- A SINPA-wide process for monitoring progress against SINPA's overarching goal and objectives: *The Phase 1 Joint Reflection Workshop will occur on 14-16 April 2010 at Maravaghi.*

The quality of monitoring at the second stage depends on implementation of robust M&E processes by each of the Partner NGOs at the first stage. It is therefore important that the SINPA partnership facilitates learning and exchange between NGOs on M&E processes which are appropriate to Solomon Islands contexts.

Purpose

The objectives of the Phase 1 Reflection Workshop are to:

1. Assess progress against SINPA's two objectives:
 - a. To what extent are SINPA NGOs becoming **more effective** at **empowering** Solomon Islanders to improve their **quality of life**?
 - b. What approaches/models or **ways of working** are emerging from SINPA's work which are **suitable to Solomon Islands contexts**?

...in terms of what has been achieved, what has been learnt and how both SINPA NGOs and the overall partnership (e.g. steering committee, reference groups) should improve.

2. Explore how the SINPA program is addressing issues of **power e.g. gender, age, disability**. What is being done well – where and how? What is being learned? What should be done differently in Phase 2?

3. Assess the extent to which SINPA's **M&E processes** (at both stages) are fulfilling the principles agreed to during the design phase? What is being learned and what can be done to improve M&E in Phase 2?
4. Explore the **contribution SINPA is making to the Australia-Solomon Islands Partnership for Development**, with reference to:
 - a. SINPA NGOs' achievements in the areas of improved service delivery and improved economic livelihoods
 - b. How NGOs learning about effective ways of working in Solomon Island contexts (see 1b. above) should influence AusAID's (and other donors') work in Solomon Islands

Assessment of risks and risk management strategies will be done by the steering committee in a separate meeting after the workshop.

In future joint reflection workshops, an additional objective will be to share SINPA's learning and achievements with other stakeholders in Solomon Islands. This first workshop is a lighter version of the Joint Reflection Workshop (given the early stage of implementation) and a good opportunity to work out how to conduct it in a useful way.

Participants and Process

The steering committee decided to invite Ros David, Chris Dureau, and Alice Pollard to facilitate the workshop – all of whom were involved throughout the design phase.

This workshop is an occasion for partners to listen to reports of each others progress and provide a constructive **peer review** to improve their work and the collaboration between all partners.

It will be critical that the workshop maximises Solomon Islanders' participation. The design phase workshops showed that this is made difficult when there are a lot of expatriates involved in discussions. The following strategies are proposed:

- Speak in pidjin as much as possible
- **Each partner ensure that its participant group (up to four people) can provide a strong, grounded, Solomon Islands perspective on what is being achieved, learned etc. Ideally, this should include at least one person that works directly with primary stakeholders (e.g. communities, clients)**
- Use small and informal group discussions as much as necessary to ensure everyone feels comfortable speaking up
- Avoid including too much content into the three days

It will also be important to base the workshop discussion as much as possible in the realities being faced at the community level by primary stakeholders. To assist with this, each NGO is strongly encouraged to **bring along creative illustrations (participatory video, photos, audio tapes, oral testimonies etc.) of primary stakeholders' own stories and perspectives of change**. See appendix 3 of SINPA design document for further discussion on this.

Timing and Logistics

- Boats will depart Honiara Yacht Club 6:30am 14 April for Maravaghi; and depart from Maravaghi 8:00am 17 April for Yacht Club.
- Costs of boat transfers, accommodation, food and water will be paid from the SINPA coordination budget.
- Each NGO should bring lifejackets for its participants.
- Rooms at Maravaghi will be shared.

Reporting

A key output of the workshop will be a joint report (approximately 10 pages) of what the SINPA program is achieving against its objectives and expected outcomes. This report will be written up by the facilitators and agreed by the Steering Committee and AusAID. It will be shared with other stakeholders as appropriate.

Preparation

We ask that each NGO come to the workshop with:

- A visual display (e.g. poster) that shows what your project has done/achieved/learned in phase one – this will be placed around the room to encourage discussion between NGOs about project progress.
- Creative illustrations (participatory video, photos, audio tapes, oral testimonies etc.) of primary stakeholders' own stories and perspectives of change

A list of each NGO's participants should be sent to Dudley Vunagi by 2 April.

Following the workshop, each NGO should ensure its team allocates time to integrating the learning from the joint reflection workshop into their plans for phase 2. Inviting 'critical friends' to participate in this process is strongly encouraged.